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EDWARD N. BONNER
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

DEVON BELL
UNDERSHERIFF

PRESS RELEASE

Date/Time of Release: Wednesday, March 12, 2008
Date/Time of Occurrence: Tuesday, March 11, 2008
Nature of Event: Snowboarder Found
Location of Call: Alpine Meadows, Placer County
Released by: Dena Erwin, PIO (530) 889-6901

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

A missing snowboarder was rescued Tuesday by the Placer County Sheriff Department's helicopter crew near the Alpine Meadows ski resort.

Sean Hackett of Ithaca, N.Y., was reported missing after snowboarding off the backside of Alpine Bowl around noon. When Sean's brother Brian lost sight of him during their back country wilderness excursion, Brian stopped and hiked back to the resort where he reported Sean missing at about 3:30 p.m.

Sean Hackett, an avid outdoorsman, believed he could snowboard around the mountain to the Sherwood lift, but he misread his ski trail map.

Searchers from the Placer County Sheriff's Tahoe Nordic Team, along with the sheriff's helicopter Falcon 30, initiated a search at about 4:00 p.m.

Within an hour, searchers found Sean's tracks. Helicopter crew members located him approximately 3.5 miles from the resort in an area known as Willow Creek, near Diamond crossing. Sean was airlifted to safety and did not require any medical treatment.

The Placer County Sheriff's Office is reminding snow sport enthusiasts that back country outside the ski area boundaries are not patrolled and sometimes subject to dangerous conditions such as avalanches. Skiing in a closed area is a crime.